

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT PFOR PL
SUBJ: POLISH PRESS CRITICIZES DISSIDENTS AND WESTERN MEDIA

REF: (A) WARSAW 3845 (B) MOSCOW 7572

1. SUMMARY: SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON MAY 23 OF A HUNGER STRIKE
IN SUPPORT OF THE JAILED WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS'
DEFENSE COMMITTEE (REF A), THE MAJOR POLISH DAILIES HAVE CARRIED
ARTICLES AIMED AT DISCREDITING THE DISSIDENTS BY LINKING THEM
WITH "ANTI-POLISH" ELEMENTS ABROAD, INCLUDING THE WESTERN PRESS,
RADIO FREE EUROPE, AND CONSERVATIVE WEST GERMAN POLITICIANS.
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SEVERAL SPEECHES REPORTED FROM THE MAY 30 SESSION OF THE SEJM
CALL FOR REJECTION OF THE DISSIDENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF UNITING
NATIONAL EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE ECONOMIC PLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LONGEST COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF THE POLISH DISSIDENTS,
ENTITLED "ALL ANTENNAS ON POLAND", APPEARED IN THE MAY 28-29
EDITION OF ZYCIE WARSZAWY AND WAS SIGNED BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BOGDAN ROLINSKI, ROLINSKI CHARGES THAT THE SO-CALLED "INDEPENDENT" WESTERN PRESS, IN COLLUSION WITH A SMALL GROUP OF ANTI-POLISH ACTIVISTS WITHIN POLAND AND CENTERS OF PROVOCATION ABROAD SUCH AS RADIO FREE EUROPE AND WEST GERMAN REVANCHIST POLITICIANS, WORK TOGETHER TO WEAKEN POLAND AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. ACCORDING TO ROLINSKI, THESE FORCES HAVE HOODWINKED LEADING INTELLECTUALS IN THE WEST WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE SUPPORTED POLAND; THEY HAVE TRIED TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH, THE SENSIBILITIES OF YOUTH, AND THE UNFORTUNATE DEATH OF STANISLAW PYJAS. ROLINSKI SUGGESTS THAT A SECONDARY MOTIVE FOR THE ANTI-POLISH CAMPAIGN IS A DESIRE TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INADEQUACIES IN THE WEST AS THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE APPROACHES.

3. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MAY 28-29 AND MAY 30, AS WELL AS ZYCIE WARSZAWY OF MAY 31, CARRY EDITORIALS DISCREDITING MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE BY REPORTING THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM WEST GERMAN POLITICAL FIGURES SUCH AS FRANZ JOZEF STRAUSS, HERBERT HUPKE, COUNT HANS KUYN, AND HERBERT CZAJA.

4. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MAY 31 CARRIES AN EDITORIAL WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE EXTENT OF THE PUBLICITY ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND IS INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENTS: AS POLAND'S POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA GROWS, ITS ENEMIES ARE FORCED TO SEEK MORE SUPERFICIAL EXCUSES FOR OPPOSITION. THIS THEME WAS REPEATED ON MAY 30 AT THE 9TH SESSION OF THE POLISH SEJM. TADEUSZ FISZBACK, THE GDANSK VOIVODESHIP PZPR FIRST SECRETARY WHO LED THE SEJM DEBATE, SAID "IN CREATIVE WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE FATHERLAND, THERE IS A PLACE FOR ALL CITIZENS. THAT IS WHY WE CATEGORICALLY OPPOSE THOSE FEW, WHO, DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN SOURCES, STRIVE TO COMPLICATE OUR LIFE, DENIGRATE OUR NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND UNDERMINE THE GOOD NAME OF POLAND."

5. THE EDITORIALS OF JUNE 1 USED STRONGER LANGUAGE COMMENTING ON THE END OF THE ALLEGEDLY UNSUCCESSFUL WEEK-LONG HUNGER STRIKE. EXPANDING ON THE THEME THAT FOREIGN ELEMENTS ARE THE ONLY PATRONS OF DISSIDENCE IN POLAND, TRYBUNA LUDU SAID THE HUNGER STRIKERS WERE SUPPORTED BY "AN INTERNATIONAL OF RENEGADES AND COSMOPOLITANS WHO EMIGRATED FROM POLAND, THE USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND WHO CONDUCT A DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE COUNTRIES THEY ONCE CALLED THEIR FATHERLAND." ANNA KLODZINSKA, WRITING IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY, CONTENDS THAT SOME OF THE DISAPPOINTED HUNGER STRIKERS ARE "ADVOCATES OF TROTSKYITE VIEWS."

6. COMMENT: THE MOST RECENT PRESS CAMPAIGN AIMS AT ISOLATING THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, YOUTH, AND THE LABOR FORCE. ALLEGED SUPPORT FROM CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN WEST GERMANY FOR THE WDC IS PROBABLY MAKING THE REGIME'S PROPAGANDA MORE EFFECTIVE. THERE ARE VERY FEW POLES

WILLING TO BE ASSOCIATED EVEN INDIRECTLY WITH FRANZ JOZEF STRAUSS, LET ALONE THE IRREDENTIST LEADERS, CZAJA AND HUPKE. THE MOST RECENT POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY GIVES MORE FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE THAN PREVIOUS REPORTS. THIS IS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF HEAVY WESTERN MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN POLAND. IT MAY ALSO REFLECT GROWING CONFIDENCE IN THE REGIME THAT WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE IS UNLIKELY. END COMMENT. DAVIES

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